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Appl. No. 09/955,916
Amendment dated June 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 19, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification at the indicated paragraphs. If helpful, paragraph numbers are taken from the printed publication. Paragraphs are also identified by page and line from the specification as filed.

Replace paragraph [0028] (which extends from page 8, line 2, through page 8, line 20) with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Figs 1-3, two preferred embodiments of the present invention are illustrated. The present invention is in the form of a wrap 10 that is that is made from a strip 12 which is preferably substantially rectangular in shape and may preferably be up to 20-24 inches in length and approximately 5-6 inches in width. However, the actual dimensions of the strip 12 may be varied as desired or needed. The material of the strip 12 from which the wrap 10 is constructed is preferably a material which is sufficiently flexible to provide a certain amount of elasticity or pliancy in the direction of elongation. A pocket or pouch element 14 is positioned in the mid portion of the strip 12 midway between the distal ends 18, 24 of the strip 12. As shown in Fig. 1, the compression band or strip 12 is connected to the pocket and provides first and second opposite end portions of the band or strip 12 that extend away from two opposite edges of the pocket to respective first and second opposite distal ends 24, 18 of the band. In an alternate embodiment as illustrated in Fig. 2, the pouch 16, which is constructed in the same manner as the pouch 14 as described below, is situated proximate one distal end 18 of the strip 12. The pouches 14, 16 are preferably formed by a flap or layer 20 preferably approximately five inches in length and 3.5 inches in width attached preferably along three edges onto the strip 12 so as to form an end opening 22 which provides access to the pouches 14, 16. In preferred form, the layer 20 is attached to the strip 12 by sewing, although any type of appropriate attachment mechanism may be utilized. A thermal pack 23 can then be readily inserted into the pouches 14, 16 through the end opening 22.

Replace paragraph [0029] (which extends from page 8, line 21, through page 9, line 4) with the following amended paragraph:

The material of the strip 12 and the pouches 14, 16 is preferably latex-free as well as free from any other type of rubberized material so as to avoid allergic reactions by contact with skin. While any number of materials are suitable for the strip 12 and pouches 14, 16, the most preferred is a woven polypropylene fiber.

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The polypropylene fiber is woven in a manner as to provide the elasticity referenced above and required so that compression force may be administered to a wound as described below. Thus, an additional sheet of the elastic material can be secured to one of the faces of strip 12 to form the pocket. Moreover, the polypropylene fiber is constructed so that if the length of the strip 12 needs to be modified by cutting, the strip 12 will retain its integrity without delaminating or unwinding.

Replace paragraph [0030] (which extends from page 9, line 5, through page 9, line 20) with the following amended paragraph:

The opposite distal end 24 of the strip 12 includes a plurality of attachment elements 26 which are designed to attach the wrap 12 to a selected body portion of an injured individual. In preferred form, the attachment elements 26 are affixed to the distal end 24 and extend outwardly therefrom. The attachment elements 26 may be any type of known device which may readily attach to the surface of the strip 12 when pressed thereon. In preferred form, the attachment elements 26 are a hook and loop type attachment device and are most preferably be a hook-type portion of a Velcro fastener. In this manner, the fastener 26 will readily secure itself to the strip 12 by simple contact therewith. Thus, each face of the strip 12 can be regarded as a fastening means suited to mate with the attachment elements 26. Thus, the wrap 10 can be readily wound about a body portion with the pouch 14, 16 on the inside surface 28 of the strip 12 being pressed against the skin of the injured party. The fasteners 26 can then be wound over the outer surface 30 and attached thereto at any desired location. As a result of this arrangement, the material of strip 12 must not only be elastic or pliant as described above, but also must be capable of quick and easy attachment to either fasteners 26 yet not stick to the skin surface of an injured party.

Replace paragraph [0031] (which extends from page 9, line 21, through page 10, line 7) with the following amended paragraph:

The embodiments 10, 11 of the invention illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 differ simply in the placement of the indicated pouches 14, 16. Another modification of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 4-6. In this particular modification, the wrap 11 is preferably utilized and wound or looped about itself so that the first distal end 24 overlaps the second distal end 18 to form a sleeve 32. The distal end 18 may be tack stitched to the material 12 to maintain the sleeve size and arrangement as illustrated in Fig. 4. Eig. 6 further shows a band 12 formed into a

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sleeve wherein first and second end portions of the band are joined together such that attachment elements 26 extend from the junction. In this manner, the sleeve 32 may be readily pulled over an appendage, such as an arm or leg, of an injured party. Once the sleeve 32 is in position, the fasteners 26 may then be moved or drawn over the circumference of the sleeve surface 30 until the sleeve 32 is tightly compressed against the appendage, at which point the fasteners 26 are then secured to the surface 30. Thus, a drawn portion 34 of the sleeve 32 overlaps ~~itself the remainder of the sleeve~~ depending on the thickness of the appendage over which the sleeve 32 has been positioned.